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## Memorandum

To: Karen Kelley

From: David Farrer, Ph.D., Public Health Toxicologist

Date: June, 24, 2011

Subject: Triangle Lake School drinking water pesticide sampling results

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On May 31, 2011, Oregon's Drinking Water Program (DWP) sampled drinking water from Triangle Lake School, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) tested those samples for over 140 pesticides and their breakdown products. Two samples were collected, one from the well head and one from the drinking fountain in the school. Of the 140 plus chemicals measured, only one, imazapyr, was detected. The concentration of imazapyr was 25 parts per trillion (ppt) at the drinking fountain and 32 ppt at the well head. This is in the same range as a previous water sample collected by a parent of a student at the school earlier in May and analyzed by USDA, which found 48 ppt imazapyr.

This memorandum is intended to provide a health-based context for these numbers.

1. The average concentration of imazapyr in the 3 samples collected from Triangle Lake School's drinking water is 35 ppt. It was the only pesticide detected out of hundreds for which the water was tested. By way of comparison to the concentrations detected in the school's water, food products in the US are allowed to contain the following levels of imazapyr: Meats, fats, dairy products - 50,000 ppt; Edible shellfish meat - 100,000 ppt; Edible finfish meat - 1,000,000 ppt.
2. The US does not have a drinking water standard for imazapyr. Australia has a drinking water standard which is 9 parts per million (ppm). This is equivalent to 9,000,000 ppt. Your water averaged only 35 ppt with a maximum of only 48 ppt.
3. The US Environmental Protection agency and Health Canada have agreed that a child weighing 22 pounds would have to drink 189,000 gallons per day of water from your school before any health problems from imazapyr could occur. A larger child or adult would have drink even more.

Based on this information, the Oregon Health Authority concludes that the presence of imazapyr in the school drinking water at the concentrations measured poses no significant health risks to students or adults who drink it.

For more information on about this toxicological consultation, please contact:

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